such clearances. Efforts are also being made to expedite the SACFA clearance and issue of Wireless Operating License by Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, which is taking considerable time at present.

DTH Services of AIR

402. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Direct to Home (DTH) service of All India Radio is likely to be launched;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of channels on which the programme would be broadcast;

(d) whether it is also fact that several services of All India Radio are being closed down; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Test transmission of DD's Ku band project, which includes 30 TV Channels and 12 AIR Channels, has already commenced. Ku band signals are available throughout the country except Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The signals can be received with the help of Ku band receive system.

(c) 12 channels of All India Radio are included in the Ku band bouquet of Prasar Bharati.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Radio Stations in Dharmapuri of Tamil Nadu

403. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a 10 KW capacity radio station with a range of about 65 km was set up in Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu with a cost of Rs. 4 crore but till date it has not started functioning due to shortage of essential staff;

(b) if so, the time likely to be taken to manning this radio station and commissioning it;